

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4 and 8-12 are presently active in this case. Claims 8 and 10 have been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the enablement requirement; Claims 3, 4, and 8-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,040,131 to Torres in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,243,858 to Mizoguchi et al., and U.S. Patent No. 5,625,823 to Debenedictis et al; and claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Torres in view of Mizoguchi et al., Debenedictis et al and U.S. patent No. 6,178,551 to Sana et al.

First, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the courtesy of an interview granted to Applicants' attorney on June 23, 2004 at which time the outstanding issues were discussed. At the interview, Applicants proposed to rewrite claim 8 to clarify that the codes and graphical symbols were universal (i.e., directed to a plurality of graphic languages). Examiner Blasom agreed that such language overcomes the prior art of record, but indicated that further search and consideration was necessary.

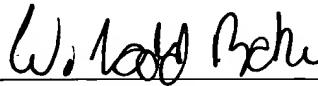
Applicants have amended claim 8 as proposed during the interview to clarify the "universal" feature of the present invention. Consequently, the outstanding 35 USC 103(a) rejections are believed to be overcome.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, Applicants have broadened Claim 10 by deleting the "configured to" limitation. Because the "configured to" feature was the subject of the 35 USC 112, first paragraph rejection, no further rejection on this basis of 35 USC 112, first paragraph, is therefore anticipated.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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